

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In the Application of:

Kenneth H. Grabstein, Dean K. Pettit and
Raymond J. Paxton

Docket No.: 2831-E

Group Art Unit: 1645

Serial No: 09/578,669

Examiner: Navarro, A. M.

Filed: May 25, 2000

For: ANTAGONISTS OF INTERLEUKIN-15

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REMARKS

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated May 20, 2003 (Paper No.13), reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The examiner maintains the rejection of claims 26-29, 35-38, 40-44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Giri et al. and Grabstein et al. in view of Ferrara et al. and Hakimi et al.

The examiner maintains the rejection alleging that applicants' arguments are not fully persuasive, for the following reasons. First, the examiner asserts that he relied upon the teaching of the cited references for both the suggestion and reasonable expectation. Second, the examiner asserts that one cannot show non-obviousness by attacking references individually where the rejection was based on the combined references. Third, the examiner alleges that the antagonist as claimed is "readily apparent" as taught by the combination of the cited references. And finally, the examiner asserts that the "motivation" statement is found in Hakimi et al., in particular citing that it "teaches that proteins conjugated with PEG result in a substantial loss of protein binding to its receptor."

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